

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4, 6 and 11-13 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 11 are amended by the present amendment. Support for amended independent Claims 1 and 11 can be found in the original specification, claims and drawings.¹ No new matter is presented.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 1, 4 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Fidalgo (U.S. Patent No. 5,598,032); and Claims 11-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Komoda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,832,391, hereinafter Komoda).

Regarding the rejection of Claims 1, 4 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Fidalgo, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent Claim 1 recites novel features clearly not taught or rendered obvious by the applied references.

Amended independent Claim 1 is directed to an IC chip that includes a CPU and an exposed contact interface connected to the CPU configured to enable data communications with the outside. The IC chip also includes a contactless interface connected to the CPU configured to enable data communications with the outside. Independent Claim 1 is amended to further recite in part:

... the IC chip is configured to be *inserted by a user into a card having an antenna*, and the IC chip is configured to be connected to the antenna to function as a contactless IC card and also to function as a contact IC card using the exposed contact interface.

Independent Claim 11, while directed to an alternative embodiment, is amended to recite similar features. Accordingly, the remarks and arguments presented below are applicable to each of amended independent Claims 1 and 11.

¹ E.g., specification, pp. 6-7 and Figs. 4-5.

As described in an exemplary embodiment at pp. 6-7 of the specification, by selecting a device for connecting to the IC chip, users can easily select either a contact communication or contactless communication as a main function. By inserting such an IC chip into a mobile terminal, as depicted in Fig. 5, it becomes possible to read data in the IC chip and download data from the network via the mobile terminal communication function. On the other hand, as depicted in Fig. 4, by inserting such an IC chip into a card with the antenna, it can be utilized as a contactless IC card at ticket examination machines, etc.

In addressing the claimed feature directed to the IC chip with regard to Fidalgo, the Official Action states that “The Examiner readily admits that the chip is not configured for insertion and removal from the card by an end-user ...”² Thus, the Official Action clearly admits that Fidalgo fails to teach or suggest that his chip (8) is not configured for insertion and removal from the card by a user. In contrast, independent Claim 1, as amended, recites the limitation that “the IC chip is configured to be inserted *by a user* into a card having an antenna.”

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 1 (and Claims 4 and 6 which depend therefrom) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Komoda, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent Claim 11 recites novel features clearly not taught or rendered obvious by the applied references.

As noted above with regard to Fidalgo, p. 3 of the Official Action admits that Komoda fails to teach or suggest a chip that is “configured for insertion and removal from the mobile device by an end user.” As noted above, independent Claim 11 is amended to recite that the IC chip “is configured to be inserted *by a user* into a mobile terminal device having

² Official Action, pp. 2-3.

an antenna.” Accordingly, Komoda fails to teach or suggest an IC chip having the required limitation of being inserted by a user, as recited in amended independent Claim 11.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 11 (and Claims 12 and 13 that depend therefrom) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 1, 4, 6 and 11-13 is patentably distinguishing over the applied references. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of the application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

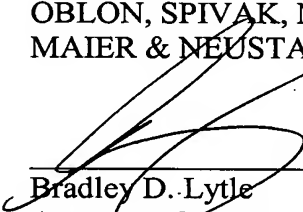
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